

operamission presents
53rd Street Handel

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

An original pastiche:
'The Morning After'

The Cast, in order of appearance:

mezzo-soprano ELIZABETH BOUK as "Ariodante" (Prince of Italy)
tenor CHRISTOPHER SOKOLOWSKI as "Giuliano" (a Spanish nobleman)
baritone BRIAN MEXTORF as "Emireno" (a pirate)
countertenor JORDAN RUTTER as "Ottone" (Prince of Germany)
soprano MARCY RICHARDSON as "Teofane" (Princess of Byzantium)

assisted by the operamission HANDEL Band:

Abigail Karr, baroque violin; **Arnie Tanimoto**, baroque 'cello; **Jennifer Peterson**, harpsichord

ARGUMENT

Ottone and Teofane were betrothed to one another,
but an evening of romance gone awry
saw them seek out trysts with Ariodante and Giuliano, respectively.

The next day, Ottone and Teofane hope to reconcile,
but Ottone is conflicted due to the reappearance of his former lover Emireno,
and Teofane cannot bring herself to forgive Ottone's infidelity.

Scene 1

After a surprise visit from Ottone, Ariodante celebrates his feelings of sudden love.

*Dopo notte, atra e funesta,
splende in Ciel più vago il sole,
e di gioja empie la terra.*

*Mentre in orrida tempesta
il mio legno è quasi assorto,
giunge in porto, e'l lido afferra.*

After last night, horrific and distressing,
the sun shines more lovingly in Heaven,
and fills the earth with joy.

While in horrid tempests
my ship was nearly submerged,
it comes to port and seizes the shore.

(from *Ariodante*, HWV 33, Act III)

mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Bouk**

Scene 2

*Giuliano recognizes that the events of the night before were a mistake,
but he cannot escape his feelings of love for Teofane.*

*Un momento di contento
dolce rende a un fido amante
tutto il pianto che versò.*

*Suol amore dal dolore
tirar balsamo alle pene,
e sanar, chi pria piagò.*

One moment of contentment
sweetly returns to a faithful lover
all the tears that have been shed.

It is said that love, by way of sorrow,
can draw out balm from pains,
and can cure those who were wounded.

(from *Alcina*, HWV 34, Act III)

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scene 3

Emireno has returned to port, and hopes to take Ottone with him when he leaves again. Having received his letters, Ottone appears. He is not convinced of Emireno's love, but Emireno charms him with tales of his adventures on the sea.

*Le profonde vie dell' onde
dammi, o Ciel, di risolcar,
e il mio nome e l'ardimento
di spavento
empia ancor i liti e il mar.*

*E farò che il sangue scorra
fra quel liquido elemento
i miei torti a vendicar.*

The profound paths of the waves
allow me, oh Heaven, to plough the seas again,
and my name and the boldness
of fear
still overflow the shores and the sea.

And I will make blood flow
among the liquid elements
to avenge my wrongs.

(from *Ottone*, HWV 15, Act II)

baritone **Brian Mextorf**

Scene 4

*Teofane appears, and Ottone immediately begs for her forgiveness.
Teofane humors him and tells Ottone to wait for her to find him later.*

*Tacerò,
purchè fedele
nel tuo sen conservi amor.*

I will be silent,
provided that fidelity
in your breast conserves love.

*Soffrirò,
benchè crudele
contro me sia tuo rigor.*

I will suffer,
though your cruelty
toward me is your severity.

(from Agrippina, HWV 6, Act III)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 5

Left alone, Teofane's desire to forgive Ottone is eclipsed by her disappointment.

*Falsa imagine, m'ingannasti,
mi mostrasti un volto amabile,
e quel volto m'allettò!*

*Or cessato il dolce inganno,
trovo orrore, trovo affanno,
ove gioje il cor sperò.*

False image, you have deceived me,
you have shown me a face I could love,
and such a face allured me!

Now the sweet deception ends,
I find atrocity, I find anguish,
where my heart had expected joy.

(from *Ottone*, HWV 15, Act I)

soprano **Marcy Richardson**

Scene 6

Having learned of the tryst between Ottone and Ariodante, Emireno bursts into a fit of rage. He tells Ottone to take the boat and leave his sight. All three lovers are heartbroken.

OTTONE

Ah mia cara, se tu resti, infelice a morte io vo.

ARIODANTE

*Ah mio caro, se tu parti, per l'affanno io morirò.
Altra spene senza te, cor mio, non ho.*

OTTONE

Altro bene senza te, cor mio, non ho.

OTTONE

Ah my dear, if you remain here,
I'll unhappily go to my death

ARIODANTE

Ah, my dear, if you depart, from anguish I will die.
Other hopes without you, my heart, I do not have.

OTTONE

Other goodness without you, my heart, I do not have.

(from *Floridante*, HWV 14, Act I)

mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Bouk**

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 7

*Ottone prepares to leave the kingdom and Emireno swears he will have him in the end.
Ariodante is left to his despair.*

Mà che vuoi più da me, sorte crudele e ria?

*manca la morte mia,
perchè non vien? dov' è?*

*Esempio sventurato
sarò d'iniquo fato
e d'amorosa fè.*

But what more do you want of me,
cruel wicked fate?

my death escapes me,
why does it not come? where is it?

I will be the unfortunate example
of the iniquity of fate
and of the fidelity of love.

(from *Floridante*, HWV 14, Act II)

mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Bouk**

Scene 8

Ottone begs the gods to take away his troubles.

*Fato crudo, Amor severo,
placa un dì tanto rigor!*

*O l'affanno del pensiero
cangerà speme in furor.*

Cruel Fate, tyrannous Love,
placate for one day such harshness!

Or my troubled thoughts
will change hope into madness.

*(from *Il Pastor Fido*, HWV 8, Act I)*

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 9

*Giuliano hears Ottone's plight and offers to help him.
Giuliano tells Ottone that he knows how to solve everyone's problems.*

*Allorchè sorge astro lucente,
più non s'adira mare sdegnoso,
e lieto gode saggio nocchier.*

*Allora sorge di Ciel pietoso
placata l'ira e nella mente
a rider torna lieto il pensier.*

When the bright star rises,
no longer does the angry sea rage,
and the wise helmsman happily rejoices.

Then he sees pitiful Heaven
placate its ire and into his mind
happy thoughts return smiling.

(from *Rodrigo*, HWV 5, Act III)

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scene 10

*The scorned Emireno finds his rival Teofane,
but immediately recognizes her as his long-lost sister.
He convinces her to let him have Ottone,
and assures her that she will find true love someday.*

*Nò, non temere, oh bella!
contenta ti farò!*

No, do not fear, oh beautiful one!
I will make you content.

*Sarà tua preda quella,
ch'il brando mio domò.*

It shall be your prey,
that which is tamed by my sword.

(from Ottone, HWV 15, Act III)

baritone **Brian Mextorf**

Scene 11

Teofane comes to the realization that love is a big scam that makes everybody act crazy.

*Amor è qual vento,
che gira il cervello;
ho inteso che a cento
comincia bel bello
a farli godere,
mà un corto piacere
da un lungo dolor.*

Love is like the wind,
that spins the brain;
I have understood that to hundreds
it begins very well
to be enjoyable,
but a short pleasure
brings a long sorrow.

*Se uniti due cori
si credon beati
gelosi timori
li fan sfortunati;
se un core è sprezzato,
divien arrabbiato,
così fà l'amor.*

If two hearts are united
they believe themselves blessed,
jealous fears
make them unfortunate;
if a heart is burst,
it becomes angry,
such is love.

(from *Orlando*, HWV 31, Act III)

soprano **Marcy Richardson**

Scene 12

*Giuliano meets Teofane only to find that she has already denounced Ottone.
He declares his love for her
and she does everything she can to distance herself from her previous love.*

GIULIANO: *Dite spera, e son contento,
dolci labbra del mio ben!*

TEOFANE: *Spera, spera io già mi pento,
novo ardor m'accende il sen.*

GIULIANO: *Dunque amasti? o Dio, che sento!*

TEOFANE: *...un traditor!*

GIULIANO: *Ami ancor?*

TEOFANE: *Io già mi pento,
che si male amai sin' or.*

GIULIANO: Say there is hope, and I'll be content,
sweet lips of my beloved!

TEOFANE: There is hope, I already regret my mistakes,
new ardor enflames my breast.

G: So you loved him? Oh god, what am I hearing?

T: ...a traitor!

G: Do you still love him?

T: I already repented,
having loved that bad man until now.

(from *Ariodante*, HWV 33, Act III)

soprano **Marcy Richardson**
tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scena ultima, CORO

*Emireno prepares to return to his life on the sea with Ottone at his side.
Teofane and Giuliano enjoy their new love together.
Ariodante apologizes for the chaos caused by his indiscretion.*

*Quel ch'il Cielo già prefisse
il mortal non può fuggir.*

*E se ben la mente affisse,
mai'l suo fato puol capir.*

That which Heaven has already determined
the mortal cannot escape.

And if he keeps this in mind,
he will never be able to understand his fate.

(from Il Pastor Fido, HWV 8, Act III)

soprano **Marcy Richardson** ("Teofane")

mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Bouk** ("Ariodante")

countertenor **Jordan Rutter** ("Ottone")

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski** ("Giuliano")

baritone **Brian Mextorf** ("Emireno")

Thank you for attending
53rd Street Handel

This evening's program was curated by Jennifer Peterson and Jordan Rutter.

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